United Nations S/2018/830

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 September 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 11 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention that the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, acting in legitimate self-defence recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, took limited and measured military action on 8 September 2018, targeting a terrorist group located in northern Iraq. The attack was carried out precisely against the headquarters and the leadership of the terrorist group, namely, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI), with no collateral damage to civilians and civilian assets in the area.

The PDKI has been committing cross-border armed terrorist attacks against targets in the Iranian border provinces in the past several years, including nine armed terrorist attacks in the past four months in such areas as Naghadeh, Piranshahr, Oshnavieh, Bukan, Nosoud and Sardasht that have resulted in many innocent civilian casualties. These armed terrorist acts, which were undertaken against the will and despite the objection of the Iraqi Government, left no option for Iranian authorities other than authorizing limited military action in self-defence aimed at putting an end to these activities.

During the years prior to the limited military action, the Iranian Government took frequent diplomatic actions before the central and regional Iraqi authorities, urging them to take necessary measures to stop the terrorist activities of the PDKI against the Iranian border regions and reserving the rights of Iran to react in an appropriate and measured way to defend its territory and people against these terrorist acts.

I should also avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate the full respect of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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United Nations S/2018/831

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Distr.: General
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Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 4 June to 1 September 2018)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2406 (2018), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 15 March 2019 and, in accordance with prior resolutions, requested me to report on the implementation of the mandate every 90 days. It covers political and security developments between 4 June and 1 September 2018, the humanitarian situation and progress in the implementation of the Mission mandate.

II. Political and economic developments

2. During the reporting period, efforts to revitalize the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan of 2015 gained momentum, while on the domestic front, Parliament passed constitutional amendment bills incorporating the peace agreement into the Transitional Constitution and extending the mandate of the Transitional Government of National Unity. Meanwhile, the national dialogue secretariat prepared for the next round of regional conferences.

Peace process

3. Following the decisions of the Council of Ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), at its 62nd Extraordinary Session, held on 31 May, the mediators further revised the proposal aimed at bridging the divergent positions of the parties on critical outstanding issues in relation to governance and security arrangements. The parties engaged in proximity talks from 18 to 20 June in Addis Ababa, and on 20 June, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, facilitated a face-to-face meeting between the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir and the leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in Opposition, Riek Machar. This was the first meeting of the two principals since the resumption of hostilities in July 2016. The following day, the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government, at its thirty-second extraordinary summit, held in Addis Ababa, welcomed the face-to-face talks and mandated the President of the Sudan, Omer Hassan Al-Bashir, to facilitate further discussions within two weeks to resolve the remaining outstanding issues and to discuss measures to rehabilitate the South Sudanese economy through bilateral cooperation between South Sudan and the Sudan. Thereafter, Kenya would facilitate a final round of talks to conclude the

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process. Riek Machar was also permitted to enter and exit the Sudan and Kenya for the duration of the peace process.

4. Face-to-face talks between the President and Riek Machar resumed in Khartoum on 25 June and concluded with the Khartoum Declaration of Agreement between Parties of the Conflict of South Sudan on 27 June, signed by the two principals, as well as representatives of the South Sudan Opposition Alliance, the SPLM "Former Detainees" and the Other Political Parties. In the Declaration, the signatories announced a permanent ceasefire, set objectives for transitional security arrangements and signatories to reach an agreement on the IGAD revised bridging proposal, improve infrastructure and basic services in South Sudan and restore oil fields in Unity. On the same day, the parties issued ceasefire declarations to take effect from 30 June.

5. Meeting on the margins of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Mauritania on 30 June, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the African Union High-level Ad Hoc Committee for South Sudan and the IGAD Council of Ministers welcomed the Khartoum Declaration. The Peace and Security Council issued a communiqué urging continued support for the IGAD-led mediation process and calling on the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism to provide verifiable evidence of ceasefire violations to support punitive measures against culpable parties.

6. Following continued proximity talks facilitated by the Sudanese mediators, on 6 July, the parties signed an agreement on outstanding issues in relation to security arrangements, with provisions on the implementation of the permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements. Of note are commitments to universal cantonment of all fighting forces; training and redeployment of a core of "unified" forces within a pre-transition period of eight months, and the establishment of a new national army during the formal transition period of 36 months. On outstanding governance matters, the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, and the President of the Sudan, hosted a one-day consultation in Entebbe, Uganda, on 7 July, with the participation of the President of South Sudan and opposition leader Riek Machar, at which a proposal on the composition of the presidency and responsibility-sharing in the Cabinet and Parliament was discussed. Notable was the proposed reinstatement of Riek Machar as First Vice-President in a future transitional government and the addition of four other Vice-Presidents. While the proposal attracted swift criticism from other opposition parties, who characterized it as a deal between only two of the warring parties, it nevertheless enabled progress in discussions on governance that had hitherto been at a standstill.

7. Talks continued in Khartoum throughout July to secure a more inclusive agreement. The most contentious issue, however, remained the number of states and their boundaries. Meanwhile, on 13 July, expressing deep concern about the continued and flagrant violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement and slow progress towards a viable political settlement, the Security Council adopted resolution 2428 (2018), imposing an arms embargo on South Sudan, as well as additional targeted sanctions on two individuals, the former Chief of General Staff of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Paul Malong, and the former SPLA Deputy Chief of General Staff for Logistics, Malek Reuben Riak. On 19 July, following the annual meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council, the two bodies issued a joint communiqué, reaffirming their belief in a political solution to the conflict and welcoming the efforts of IGAD and regional initiatives, but also condemning the violations of the cessation of hostilities agreement and insisting on the need to hold violators accountable, fight impunity and promote peace and reconciliation.

8. Amid mounting pressure to conclude talks on governance, the parties were persuaded to defer negotiations on the determination of the number and boundaries of states until the final round of talks. On 5 August, in a ceremony attended by all IGAD members, the South Sudanese parties signed the agreement on outstanding issues of governance. The Presidents of the Sudan and Uganda signed as co-guarantors, while representatives of IGAD, the African Union and the United Nations signed as witnesses. Delivering a statement on my behalf at the signing ceremony, my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, welcomed the progress made in Khartoum; underscored the importance of a fair and inclusive process; and cautioned that the support of the international community depended not simply on reaching an agreement but on reaching an implementable one.

9. In the light of recent progress, IGAD agreed that discussions would continue in Khartoum to finalize a revitalized text of the peace agreement and related implementation matrices and timelines. From 13 to 19 August, talks resumed with discussions, including on the status and incorporation of the documents agreed upon in Addis Ababa and in Khartoum in the preceding months. On 18 August, the mediators circulated a draft revitalized text of the peace agreement to the parties for comment before adjourning for the Eid holidays. Talks resumed in Khartoum on 25 August and continued into September, with the parties initialling a draft revitalized peace agreement between 28 and 30 August and subsequently beginning to discuss related implementation matrices. The SPLM/A in Opposition and the South Sudan Opposition Alliance, however, publicly conditioned the initialling of these documents on the resolution of four "reservations" at a forthcoming extraordinary summit of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The areas of concern are government decision-making mechanisms and quorums, the number and boundaries of states, the permanent constitution-making process and mechanisms for the guarantors and other countries from the region to contribute to transitional security arrangements. Meanwhile, on 20 August, the former President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, announced his resignation as Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, stating that the transition phase warranted new leadership.

Other national political developments

10. On 20 June, Parliament adopted a constitutional amendment bill, incorporating the peace agreement into the Transitional Constitution of South Sudan of 2011; it received the President's assent and entered into force on 4 July. Shortly thereafter, on 13 July, Parliament passed another bill extending the tenure of the executive and legislative arms of the national and state government until 12 August 2021. This action was widely criticized by opposition groups, civil society organizations and the Troika (Norway, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America) as being counterproductive to the peace process.

11. On 18 July, the President dismissed the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Deng Alor Kwol, a post allocated under the peace agreement to the SPLM "Former Detainees", and replaced him with the Senior Adviser and Presidential Envoy, Nhial Deng Nhial. On 27 July, the President appointed Gok Makuach Mayol as the new Deputy Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. On 24 August, the President dismissed the Minister of Labour and Public Services, Gathoth Gatkuoth, and replaced him with the former SPLA Chief of General Staff, James Hoth Mai.

12. During the reporting period, the national dialogue secretariat proceeded with preparations for the holding of regional conferences. On 20 August, the Co-Chairs of the national dialogue steering committee, Abel Alier and Angelo Beda, welcomed the progress in the high-level revitalization forum and invited opposition groups to submit their views on issues to be included in the forthcoming regional conferences.

Economic developments

13. The economic situation remained very poor, despite a tentative strengthening of the parallel market value of the South Sudanese pound against the United States dollar, from around 300 pounds to the dollar in early June to 210 pounds to the dollar in mid-August. However, food and basic commodity prices did not decline, with inflation in the 12 months to July being estimated at 123 per cent. Oil production continued at a rate of around 130,000 barrels per day, with the authorities anticipating an increase in production in subsequent months following the resumption of production in Unity State. On 20 August, Parliament passed the draft national budget for the fiscal year 2018/19, in the amount of 81.59 billion South Sudanese pounds, approximately $526 million.

III. Security situation

14. During the reporting period, violent clashes between government forces and armed opposition groups continued to occur, but with less intensity and frequency than in preceding months. At least 19 incidents of ceasefire violations, including incidents of fighting between the parties, were verified by the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism. Meanwhile, intercommunal violence, including cattle-raiding in Lakes, Warrap and Jonglei, led to civilian casualties, displacement, abductions and looting.

Greater Upper Nile region

15. In central and southern Unity, attacks were consistent with the pattern in previous months, when government forces attempted to clear the route from Koch to Leer and further to the south and south-east of Unity. UNMISS patrols also came under fire on two occasions. On 4 June, an UNMISS patrol encountered small arms fire from unidentified armed men near Rubkway in southern Unity. Subsequently, on 8 June 2018, an integrated UNMISS patrol came under direct and sustained fire in Rubkway from between 80 and 100 armed men, later confirmed to be members of SPLA. UNMISS returned fire in self-defence. On 5 June, SPLA and pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition forces reportedly clashed in Guar and Bieh villages, Koch County. On 6 June, government forces and pro-government armed youth led by the former Commissioner of Gany County, Gordon Koang, reportedly attacked Buok, south-east of Koch. Alleged SPLA attacks continued on 12 and 13 June, in Dablual and Buaw, with four civilians reported dead and several injured, civilian structures burned and properties looted. On 14 June, there were reports of attacks on vehicles, including the use of a rocket-propelled grenade to attack a truck north of the town of Koch, by alleged opposition elements in the area, killing two people. In the Leer area, between 18 and 19 June, SPLA allegedly attacked opposition positions along the Pilling-Thonyor-Adok axis, with clashes in Thonyor, Pilling, Panei, Bow, Thor, Rubkong and Touch Riak. The fighting led to three reported civilian deaths. UNMISS verification patrols in Leer County noted a limited civilian presence. On 28 and 29 June, the opposition allegedly attacked Paguir, Guit County, and Buaw, Thaker and Manga. There were reports of clashes on 30 June in Thaker and Rubkway, Mayendit County, and SPLA allegedly shelled Pibor and Chot Jok, Rubkona County. On 3 and 4 July, armed youth, allegedly commanded by Gordon Koang, reportedly clashed with the opposition in Gandor, Nyoat, Kuui, Lual and Padeah, Din Din, Kueidok and Yang, Leer County, and Bieh, Koch County. On 14 July, reported clashes on the outskirts of Buaw, Koch County, resulted in three fatalities. On 21 August, government and opposition forces reportedly clashed in Bil Payam and Nimni, Guit County.

16. In Jonglei, on 4 June, SPLA allegedly attacked an armed group in Manypugkul, Akello Payam, east of the town of Pibor, injuring three civilians. On 26 June, SPLA forces based in Wa'at allegedly attacked the pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition in Luony and Kuernyoun villages in Nyerol and Akobo, killing four and injuring five civilians. In Upper Nile, SPLA and the opposition reportedly clashed on 6 June in Arabet, Manyo County, killing four opposition soldiers.

Greater Equatoria region

17. In greater Equatoria, clashes between SPLA and opposition forces and armed attacks and criminality along the main roads continued to cause civilian casualties and displacement. In Western Equatoria, on 7 June, alleged SPLA and opposition attacks reportedly resulted in one civilian death in Li-Rangu Payam and one in Gangura Payam. On 10 June, an armed group reportedly attacked civilians in Bazungua village, killing two civilians. Clashes were also reported on 17 June in Makpandu, and on 19 and 20 June in Saura and Nambia, leading to civilian displacement, while on 24 June, opposition forces allegedly attacked the SPLA barracks in Nangondi, Nzara County. Thereafter, on 26 and 27 June, suspected opposition forces reportedly attempted to forcibly recruit 25 youth in Bazungua village, looted civilian property and abducted civilians in Bazumburu. On 8 and 9 July, armed ambushes were also reported on SPLA vehicles near Mundri and Rimenze, resulting in four deaths and five injuries.

18. In Central Equatoria, on 8 June, SPLA forces reportedly attacked the opposition base in Mugwo County, with further allegations of fighting between the two forces in Payawa on the same day. On 12 June, suspected opposition forces allegedly stopped a civilian vehicle travelling from Yei to Kaya and abducted 13 civilians. Fighting also threatened United Nations personnel: on 26 June a humanitarian convoy with UNMISS force protection was fired upon by unidentified gunmen on the Juba-Yei road, killing one peacekeeper. Reports of fighting between government and pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition forces continued on 29 June and on 1 and 12 July in Livolo County. On 17 and 20 July, respectively, reports surfaced of clashes between the South Sudan National Movement for Change and the pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition in Mukaya County. On 23 July, an armed opposition group reportedly attacked an SPLA position at Logobero village, along the Yei-Maridi road. Additional SPLA troops were reportedly sent to the area to bolster security. On 29 August, clashes were reported at Jamara in Lainya County. In Eastern Equatoria, on 4 June, a vehicle was reportedly ambushed on the Torit-Kapoeta road resulting in two deaths, and on 10 June, two civilians were reportedly killed while returning to Torit from Osile village.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

19. During the reporting period there was a deterioration in security in some parts of Western Bahr el-Ghazal. Between 11 and 15 June, SPLA forces allegedly attacked opposition positions in Kuarjena and Bagari. Fighting was also reported in Bagari and Wadhalelo, Jur County, between 14 and 18 June, resulting in civilian displacement to Agok. On 23, 26 and 27 June, fighting was reported south of Wau, spreading to Mboro and the greater Bagari area. Between 29 and 30 June, SPLA allegedly attacked the opposition in Mboro and Bisselia, while the opposition allegedly ambushed SPLA in Bagari, Mboro and Bisselia on 5 July. Sporadic clashes between 19 and 21 July, with reports of heavy gunfire emanating from Bringi and Bagari, and between 21 and 25 July around Wadhalelo, led to civilian displacement. Attacks and counter-attacks reportedly continued throughout August in Bringi, Ngobagari, Mboro and Raja. Persistent access denials imposed by SPLA and local authorities in Wau impaired the ability of UNMISS to verify the situation in affected areas.

Intercommunal conflict

20. In the greater Lakes area, an upsurge in cattle-raiding incidents involving the Dinka Agar Pakam community was reported in late June and July. The Dinka Agar Pakam allegedly carried out attacks, together with the Dinka Ciec, against Dinka Agar Rup communities in areas including Rumbek Centre, Rumbek East and Cueibet, killing at least 12 people. Violence precipitated by the Dinka Agar Pakam and Dinka Ciec continued into August, with an attack on the Dinka Agar Panyar in Paloc Payam, Rumbek East, which resulted in nine deaths.

21. In Warrap, on 5 June, armed youth suspected to be Nuer from Northern Liech and Bul South County from Unity reportedly attacked Kongor and Lou communities of Alabek and Aliek counties in Tonj, resulting in at least 32 people dead and an undetermined number injured. Suspected members of the Apuk community in Gogrial reportedly attacked a cattle camp in Aguok territory, killing six people. SPLA forces were deployed along the border area between Apuk and Aguok to deter revenge attacks. On 11 and 12 August, violent clashes involving the Thiik and Luanjang communities against the Jalwau and Gok communities were reported in Tonj East. Reportedly, the clashes resulted in 42 fatalities and 60 persons injured. The fighting was allegedly triggered when armed Luanjang youth killed a Jalwau community member and looted his cattle.

22. Meanwhile, in Jonglei, clashes between two Lou Nuer subclans, the Cie-Yol and the Cie-Nyak, in early July, in Akobo, reportedly resulted in 14 deaths. Local authorities and community leaders intervened to mitigate the conflict. In the border area of Boma and Kapoeta, fighting over access to land and water resources was reported between the Murle and the Jie on 6 and 7 July. Government reports indicate that 26 people were killed and 24 were injured. Murle attackers allegedly abducted three boys and three girls, while a significant number of Jie community members were displaced, thousands of cattle were stolen and houses were burned.

IV. Humanitarian situation

23. The humanitarian situation remained dire. Nearly 2,000 people were forcibly displaced because of fighting in the greater Bagari area, Western Bahr el-Ghazal. In Western Equatoria, approximately 18,000 were registered as in need of assistance and protection, including at least 10,000 people fleeing to Tambura owing to fighting between government forces and SPLM/A in Opposition since 17 May. By the end of July, 1.8 million persons were displaced within South Sudan, and some 2.5 million persons were living in neighbouring countries. South Sudan has one the highest rates of out-of-school children in the world, with up to 2.2 million children not receiving education services.

24. Almost 60 per cent of the population was expected to be suffering acute food insecurity at the peak of the lean season. Even with humanitarian assistance, more than 6 million people remained classified as being in a "crisis" (phase 3 of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification) or "emergency" (phase 4) situation, which is a 20 per cent increase from the same period in 2017. In June and July, food insecurity (phases 3 and 4) persisted in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, with some improvement in Western Equatoria. Significant concerns remain in Mayendit and Leer, which are expected to be in phase 4 and which humanitarians reached in July for the first time since April with small-scale interventions; "famine" (phase 5) was declared in these areas in February 2017. Mass displacement from the greater Equatoria region, which traditionally has the highest agricultural production, has exacerbated existing stressors in the food security situation. Meanwhile,

approximately 1.1 million children under the age of 5 years are at risk of acute malnutrition.

25. In July, 80 humanitarian access incidents were reported, particularly in Upper Nile, Unity and Central Equatoria (35 per cent of these were attributed to criminal or unknown actors, 26 per cent to state security forces and 15 per cent to state civil authorities and civilians). For the third consecutive year, South Sudan remains the most violent context in the world in which to deliver humanitarian assistance. Over the last six months, around 50 per cent of reported access incidents involved violence against humanitarian workers and assets. In June, three humanitarian workers were killed in Rubkona and Mayom counties of Unity, while two aid workers were killed in July in Terekeka, Central Equatoria and Rumbek East, Lakes, bringing the number of humanitarian workers killed in the country since January 2018 to 12. In June, blockages and bureaucratic challenges impeded humanitarian operations in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, and humanitarian agencies operating in Wau County reported increasing access denial by State armed forces to areas outside Wau experiencing conflict. Access outside the town of Yei in Central Equatoria remained limited owing to the lack of safety and security assurances.

26. Violence against humanitarian workers and assets escalated during the reporting period. In June and July, community leaders in the UNMISS protection of civilians sites in Bentiu and Malakal interfered with operations and mobilized youth groups to disrupt humanitarian operations. In Bentiu, those actions forced the closure of three of five clinics for over three weeks, and access to safe water was jeopardized for an estimated 50,000 people. Humanitarian workers were also assaulted by community leaders and members of the community watch group. Following extensive negotiations, humanitarian activities resumed. In Malakal, youth groups threatened aid workers, allegedly over the lack of employment opportunities, leading to the suspension of life-saving health assistance. In July, a protest by youth against a perceived lack of employment opportunities in Bunj, Maban County, in Upper Nile, quickly became violent and led to attacks, looting and the burning of humanitarian premises and damage to humanitarian vehicles. Humanitarian operations were severely disrupted as significant damage was caused to property and approximately 400 humanitarian workers were relocated.

27. Despite challenges, by the end of August, humanitarian partners had provided life-saving assistance to over 3.8 million of the 6 million people targeted. As the main planting season progressed amid continued fighting, partners scaled up efforts to provide farmers with seeds and tools. More than 4,530 tons of crop seeds were distributed to approximately 312,000 families — the largest quantity of seeds distributed during the main planting season to date.

28. At the time of reporting, the humanitarian response plan was 50 per cent funded, with $854 million received of the $1.7 billion required.

V. Implementation of the Mission's mandated tasks

A. Protection of civilians

29. UNMISS continued to use a three-tiered approach to its mandated task of protection of civilians. Under tier one, protection through dialogue and political engagement, the Mission continued to emphasize the primary responsibility of national authorities to protect civilians and to reiterate its availability to assist authorities in fulfilling that responsibility. On 10 July, my Special Representative travelled to Yambio, where he met with the Governor of Gbudwe State and faith-based leaders to discuss ongoing recovery and resilience initiatives. On 12 July, my

Deputy Special Representative and Humanitarian Coordinator travelled to Tambura, Western Equatoria, to address tensions surrounding the arrival of approximately 18,000 persons who were fleeing fighting in Nagero, Western Equatoria. He engaged with the state Governor to prevent their further forced relocation to another site within the town of Tambura. On 1 and 2 August, my Special Representative travelled to Malakal, Upper Nile, to address tensions in the UNMISS protection of civilians site over hiring practices that were perceived to be unfair, emphasizing the principle of non-discrimination in United Nations recruitment. He also visited Bunj to assess the levels of damage to humanitarian assets and engage state and civil society actors to quell tensions following the violent youth demonstrations.

30. Elsewhere, UNMISS delivered 19 workshops at the subnational level on social cohesion, reconciliation, conflict management and the role of traditional leaders, women and youth in peacebuilding. A total of 5,085 participants attended (1,369 women), including representatives from UNMISS protection of civilians sites and host communities, state and county officials, members of organized armed forces and armed groups, traditional leaders and youth and women's representatives. For example, in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, UNMISS continued to support the joint border peace committee in managing cattle migration between the Sudan and South Sudan. In Akobo, with UNMISS support, conflicting Lou Nuer subclans resolved to cease hostilities and address root causes of the conflict. In Juba, UNMISS facilitated dialogue between the Jieng Council of Elders (Dinka) and the Council of Elders of Jubek State to address heightened tensions between host communities and migratory Dinka Bor cattle keepers. As a result, a joint committee was formed to address communal tensions and support the implementation of the presidential decree of 23 October 2017 on repatriation of Dinka Bor cattle to Jonglei. In Bor, UNMISS facilitated a cultural event for displaced members of the Nuer community from the protection of civilians site and host Dinka community to promote reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.

31. Under the second tier, protection from physical violence, as at 1 September, the Mission was protecting 198,446 internally displaced persons at UNMISS protection of civilians sites, including 114,652 in Bentiu, 39,199 in Juba, 24,415 in Malakal, 2,300 in Bor and 17,880 in Wau. The decongestion of the Wau protection site led to a 15 per cent decrease in the population of the site by July, compared with May (20,702). The temporary protection area in Leer, Unity, provided refuge to 2,500 displaced persons.

32. To reinforce the civilian character of the sites, UNMISS engaged with community leaders to inform them of the Mission's response to security incidents, to promote active community involvement in curtailing criminal activity and to support peaceful coexistence. This included a meeting chaired by my Special Representative on 9 August with over 50 community leaders from the Juba protection sites to reiterate community responsibility for the internal security of the sites. During the reporting period, a total of 506 crimes and security incidents were recorded at the protection sites (Wau, 191; Bentiu, 161; Juba, 99; Malakal, 45; Bor, 10). The most commonly reported offences were theft, assault and domestic violence. UNMISS conducted 272 search operations, confiscating items such as weapons, ammunition, illicit drugs and stolen United Nations property. Of note during the reporting period was the increase in hostilities at the Juba protection site. On 13 and 14 August, fighting occurred between youth from the Rubkona and Mayom communities at protection site 3. While UNMISS increased security and engaged with community members and leaders to ease tensions, fighting between the two groups led to the injury of 179 people, and the displacement of between 1,000 and 2,000 people from within the protection sites to the surrounding weapons-free zone, and the erection of 19 shelters. Fighting escalated further on 22 August. UNMISS continued to engage humanitarian

partners, national authorities and leaders from the fighting communities to calm the tensions.

33. A total of 133 persons suspected of involvement in serious security incidents were detained at UNMISS holding facilities in Bentiu, Juba and Malakal. UNMISS also responded to two requests from the authorities in respect of persons in the Juba protection of civilians site suspected of serious crimes. Under the second phase of the UNMISS project to promote accountability, the national director of public prosecutions accepted 16 cases of alleged sexual violence committed at the Juba, Malakal and Bentiu sites for uptake into the formal justice system.

34. Beyond the protection of civilians sites, UNMISS continued to focus on deterring and mitigating violence against civilians across South Sudan. During the reporting period, a total of 10,387 patrols (short and long duration, dynamic air, riverine and foot) were conducted, including 146 patrols to support the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism. A company of troops was redeployed to Yei, Central Equatoria, to respond to increasing criminality and fighting. UNMISS continued regular integrated long-duration dynamic air patrols in SPLM/A in Opposition-held areas of Akobo (Jonglei) and Kodok (Upper Nile), to support the delivery of humanitarian aid and enhance understanding of the local situation. The Mission also conducted patrols to Yirol and Maper (Lakes), Panyagor-Poktar and Pochala (Jonglei), Raja and the Wau triangle area (Western Bahr el-Ghazal), Boma (Jonglei), Kajo-Kaji (Central Equatoria) and Tambura (Western Equatoria).

35. Under the third tier, establishment of a protective environment, UNMISS continued to engage with authorities and civil society to create an environment conducive for the return of displaced populations. In Wau, UNMISS and humanitarian actors continued implementing a joint action plan to create an enabling environment for displaced populations to return. In Bentiu, UNMISS also continued to promote the expansion of the weapons-free-zone concept: a 200-metre radius around the base was cleared and a perimeter road is under construction. In Malakal, UNMISS continued to engage with the Upper Nile security committee to contribute to reducing the armed presence in the town centre.

36. UNMISS conducted workshops across the country to build the capacities of local organizations to implement UNMISS quick-impact projects to renovate basic infrastructure in key areas of return, with a total of 170 participants from national and civil society organizations and government personnel. The Mission implemented and handed over 15 of the 23 projects for the 2017/18 funding cycle, including 6 UNMISS-supported projects to construct and renovate police posts and stations in Juba, Kuacjok, Wau and Aweil.

B. Monitoring and investigating human rights

37. During the reporting period, UNMISS verified 253 incidents that posed a threat to human rights and protection. These included instances of unlawful killing or wounding of civilians, abduction, looting and destruction of civilian property, attacks against the United Nations, arbitrary arrest and prolonged detention, recruitment and/or use of children by armed groups or forces, forced displacement, extortion and sexual violence. The incidents resulted in the deaths of 320 individuals, the wounding of 197 and the abduction of 128 (the victims included 98 women and 50 minors). These were attributable to SPLA (231), pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition (225), pro-Taban Deng SPLM/A in Opposition (9), the National Prison Service (8), government security forces engaged in disarmament (4), the National Security Service (1) and other armed elements (167).

38. Of all the incidents recorded, 53 involved conflict-related sexual violence, including rape, gang rape and abduction of women and girls for sexual slavery. The 53 incidents, which affected 188 people (176 women and girls, 12 men and boys), are attributable to SPLA (27 incidents affecting 133 survivors), pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition (19 incidents affecting 46 survivors) and other armed groups (7 incidents affecting 9 survivors). Most of the incidents occurred in Western Equatoria and Unity States, although limited access and underreporting may prevent a full picture from being obtained.

39. From 23 to 27 July, a Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict deployed by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, together with UNMISS, provided technical support to SPLA and the South Sudan National Police Service to strengthen the prevention and deterrence of and the response to conflict-related sexual violence.

40. On 10 July, UNMISS and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights jointly published a report documenting alleged serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law in April and May 2018 perpetrated by government and allied forces, and abuses by armed youth in parts of southern Unity. The report identified three individuals, including the Commissioner of Gany County, who may bear the greatest responsibility for these violations. Following the release of the report and other advocacy efforts by the United Nations and the international community, the Commissioner was removed from his functions.

41. Incidents of hate speech and incitement to violence continued to be reported, fuelled by the ongoing political developments and the perceived exclusion of communities from opportunities, including employment. To fight hate speech, the Defy Hate Now organization launched a social media hate speech mitigation field guide.

42. Challenges to free speech continued to affect individuals expressing opinions perceived as being critical of the Government, damaging to the reputation of the country or on topics considered to be sensitive. As a result, cases of intimidation, arbitrary arrest and detention continued to be documented. During a workshop held by UNMISS in Juba on 8 June, journalists and human rights defenders, including 21 women, acknowledged the challenges of reporting publicly on several issues, including sexual violence in South Sudan, owing to intimidation and reprisals by state authorities.

43. Physical conditions in state detention facilities remained poor, with overcrowding observed in Juba, Torit and Yirol. Prolonged, arbitrary and proxy detention remained common across the country.

44. Lack of respect for fair trial standards and due process, including in cases involving the death penalty, remains a serious concern. As at 6 June, 345 prisoners (335 male and 10 female) were reported to be on death row in prisons across the country. UNMISS continued to advocate that national authorities should adopt a moratorium on executions.

45. On 8 August, the President declared a "general amnesty" for Riek Machar and "other estranged groups", and on 20 August, 21 detainees were reportedly released in compliance with the Khartoum Declaration. The appeal of the death sentence of James Gatdet Dak, the former Press Secretary of the pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition, has remained pending since 12 February. Meanwhile, on 6 September, after the reporting period, the President of the Special General Court Martial is expected to deliver the verdict in respect of the trial related to the events at the Terrain Hotel.

46. Through quick-impact projects, UNMISS refurbished the first juvenile reformatory centre in Juba to provide facilities to separate young offenders from adult male prisoners. UNMISS continued to provide technical assistance to justice sector institutions to address prolonged and arbitrary detention and assisted the national prison service to launch a prison development committee to make recommendations for the reform of the prison system.

47. In compliance with the human rights due diligence policy on support for non-United Nations security forces, UNMISS undertook risk assessments, vetting and profiling of recipients, in response to three requests for support from government security forces.

48. UNMISS facilitated 165 human rights capacity-building and sensitization activities, benefiting 9,558 participants (of whom 3,957 were women), including individuals from SPLA, South Sudan National Police Service and civil society, as well as other stakeholders. As part of the internal mainstreaming of human rights, UNMISS facilitated sessions on the human rights mandate for 1,426 UNMISS uniformed personnel, including 273 women.

49. Access issues continued to have an adverse effect on the Mission's ability to investigate alleged human rights violations and abuses. During the reporting period, UNMISS human rights teams experienced 11 incidents of access denial across parts of Upper Nile, Unity, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, and Western and Eastern Equatoria. Eight incidents were attributable to government forces and authorities and three to pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition elements.

50. During the reporting period, the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting on children in armed conflict documented 129 incidents of grave violations, of which 76 were verified, affecting at least 2,091 children (1,113 boys, 972 girls and 6 children whose sex is unknown). Pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition was responsible for 43 per cent of the verified incidents, and SPLA was responsible for 39 per cent. From 26 to 27 June 2018, the task force conducted a two-day workshop for 50 high-ranking officers from the 10 SPLA divisions across the country, in addition to officers from the general headquarters in Juba. The outcomes of the workshop included the signing of a revised action plan with the United Nations. UNMISS also provided child protection training to parties to the conflict, including 568 members (of whom 45 were women) of the government security forces and 40 members of the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition forces. It also facilitated 74 training and child protection mainstreaming sessions for 4,556 participants (of whom 1,940 were women), drawn from government-organized forces, public authorities, community members and UNMISS personnel. The United Nations, in coordination with the South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, facilitated the release of 149 children (51 girls; 98 boys) from the ranks of the South Sudan National Liberation Movement and the former pro-Taban Deng SPLM/A in Opposition. This brings the total number of children released this year to 955.

C. Creating the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

51. UNMISS continued to provide force protection to enable humanitarian partners to carry out vital service delivery, with an increase in requests for support for operations in higher-risk areas. Road repair work supported by UNMISS also enabled humanitarian efforts to expand their reach. Following renewed conflict in southern Unity, UNMISS facilitated humanitarian assistance in and around the Leer temporary protection area. Under the Beyond Bentiu reintegration strategy to encourage

voluntary and safe return, UNMISS accompanied two humanitarian organizations to deliver medical supplies to communities in Nhiadiu. In Western Equatoria, humanitarian organizations delivered assistance to displaced populations with UNMISS force protection in Tambura. UNMISS supported the delivery of humanitarian assistance through patrols in and around camps in Rimenze and Makpandu, and by engaging the state government to provide security on main roads to aid civilian movement. In Lakes, UNMISS coordinated with the education cluster, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided materials to four schools to establish temporary learning spaces for the children of 1,000 returnee families.

52. The Mine Action Service responded to several requests for searches of UNMISS protection sites in Bentiu, Bor, Juba and Wau and participated in patrols in Jonglei, Western Bahr el-Ghazal, Unity and Upper Nile. The Mine Action Service disposed of explosive hazards in the Bentiu and Malakal protection sites and in proximity to the Malakal airstrip. At the Mission's request, the Mine Action Service destroyed weapons and ammunition held by SPLA in Opposition and SPLA. It surveyed and destroyed an item of unexploded ordnance located within a school in Aweil, Northern Bahr el-Ghazal. During the reporting period, 27 mine action teams were deployed across the country. A total of 4,234,240 m^2 was surveyed and released, and a further 4,781 explosive hazards and 19,189 rounds of small arms ammunition were removed and destroyed.

D. Supporting the implementation of the Agreement and the peace process

53. My Special Representative continued to use his good offices in support of the peace process in South Sudan. He met with the President, Riek Machar and other senior government and opposition officials to advocate adherence to the permanent ceasefire and to emphasize the need for compromise and political will to secure a lasting and inclusive political settlement to the armed conflict. During regular visits to states in South Sudan, he met with state and local authorities and civil society representatives, as well as community representatives in protection sites to keep them apprised of developments in the peace talks. In regular engagements with the diplomatic community in Juba, my Special Representative promoted the need for coordinated support for the ongoing peace process. On 27 June, UNMISS supported a one-day debrief on the high-level revitalization forum for civil society organizations. The outputs were shared with the stakeholders participating in the talks and the mediators. In coordination with the United Nations country team, UNMISS also continued to engage with the steering committee and secretariat of the national dialogue to promote an inclusive, participatory and credible process. In August, as talks between the parties resumed in Khartoum, both my Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan and an UNMISS team travelled to the Sudan to monitor efforts to streamline the agreed text into a revitalized peace agreement. As discussions turn towards the implementation matrix of the agreement, including revised security arrangements, UNMISS will dispatch a technical team to engage directly and provide technical assistance where required.

54. UNMISS continued to provide logistical support, force protection and air transport for the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism to fulfil its mandate, including monitoring and reporting violations and identifying responsible parties. To enhance awareness, the Mission distributed information products to local audiences on the cessation of hostilities agreement.

55. Upon request from the South Sudan Law Review Commission, UNMISS, in coordination with relevant United Nations agencies, initiated a review of key

legislation relevant to the implementation of the peace agreement. UNMISS supported national authorities in establishing a mechanism to coordinate their efforts to increase transparency and public reporting. UNMISS also continued to strengthen parliamentary oversight, conducting a preliminary needs assessment of specialized parliamentary committees mandated to advance the rule of law.

56. By 4 July, the technical committee for the establishment of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing had completed two rounds of consultations. The 3,700 participants consulted expressed their opinions freely, citing challenges such as the lack of adequate mobilization and sensitization prior to consultation and a perceived lack of a genuine commitment by the Government. Internally displaced persons were reluctant to participate in the process, questioning its timeliness, relevance, credibility, legitimacy and independence.

E. Women and peace and security

57. On 3 and 4 July, a joint high-level delegation, led by the Deputy Secretary-General and accompanied by the Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on Women, Peace and Security, the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, my Special Adviser on Africa, my Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region of Africa, my Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and other high-level representatives, visited South Sudan. The delegation, which also travelled to Wau and Malakal, met with cabinet ministers, state government officials, women and faith-based leaders, women's civil society groups, populations at the UNMISS protection of civilians sites, United Nations partners and the diplomatic community to solicit views on the peace process, promote the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of conflict resolution, development and humanitarian interventions, and highlight urgently needed measures to address sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence.

58. In a meeting with the President, the Deputy Secretary-General re-emphasized the primacy of a political solution to the conflict and shared messages received from women's organizations, women leaders and conflict-affected communities. My Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict remained in the country from 5 to 7 July, to engage the Government on the need to accelerate the implementation of the commitments of South Sudan on conflict-related sexual violence. The Mission, United Nations agencies and development partners and the Government have worked towards facilitating access to comprehensive, survivor-centred services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence through a one-stop centre in Juba. In the first eight months of its operations, the centre was accessed by 366 women, girls and boys and has contributed to the pursuit of criminal proceedings in two cases.

VI. Mission staffing, the status of deployments and conduct and discipline

59. On 1 September, the number of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,646: 894 international staff members (233 women, 26 per cent), 1,376 national staff members (195 women, 14 per cent) and 376 United Nations Volunteers (118 women, 31 per cent).

60. The police strength stood at 1,807 (of an authorized 2,101 officers): 642 individual police officers (147 women, 23 per cent), 1,099 personnel in formed police units (224 women, 20 per cent) and 66 corrections officers (19 women, 29 per cent).

61. Of the authorized 17,000 troops, including up to 4,000 for the regional protection force, UNMISS troop strength stood at 14,572 military personnel: 218 military liaison officers (27 women, 12 per cent), 399 military staff officers (56 women, 14 per cent) and 13,955 military contingent personnel (452 women, 3 per cent). A total of 2,220 regional protection force personnel have been inducted to date, including 34 out of the 38-person headquarters element and 13 of the 20 planned military liaison officers. Full complements of the Bangladesh Engineering Unit, the Nepalese High Readiness Company and the Chinese and Rwandan infantry battalions have been deployed. The main body of the Ethiopian infantry battalion arrived in Juba on 20 July.

62. UNMISS continued to strengthen and enhance measures to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. The inter-agency task force on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and the UNMISS sexual exploitation and abuse task force reviewed current measures and assessed whether any changes in the risk environment were evident, necessitating amendments to the existing action plan. Newly arrived UNMISS personnel participated in mandatory induction training on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and efforts were made to increase rates of completion of mandatory e-learning courses. "No excuse" cards were issued to all personnel. Community-based complaint mechanisms were established across South Sudan to ensure that allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse are received in a timely manner to ensure an effective response. Community outreach remains a high priority for UNMISS. The UNMISS Conduct and Discipline Advisory Group, chaired by the Head of the Mission, met during the reporting period to discuss the prevention of misconduct and the enforcement of applicable United Nations standards of conduct for all personnel.

VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and security of United Nations personnel

63. During the reporting period, UNMISS recorded 52 incidents constituting violations of the status-of-forces agreement, some involving multiple violations. Particularly concerning were three armed attacks directed at UNMISS and humanitarian operations on 4 and 8 June in Unity and on 26 June in Central Equatoria, resulting in the death of an UNMISS military liaison officer.

64. UNMISS recorded 31 incidents of movement restrictions attributed to the Government that affected UNMISS operations, 11 of which were directed at UNMISS personnel monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation. Six new cases of arrest and detention of UNMISS personnel and contractors by government agents were also reported. In one case, an UNMISS contractor was taken from his house in Torit by the National Security Service, who tortured him over a private dispute, before releasing him days later. In two other cases, UNMISS personnel were detained in Bor and Juba, respectively, for approximately three hours, before being released. In three other cases occurring in Lakes, Eastern Equatoria and Western Bahr el-Ghazal, the affected staff members were released after being detained for one to two days. The whereabouts of two staff members arrested in 2014 remain unknown. The Government has neither granted UNMISS access to them nor provided information about their condition, despite regular requests.

65. Violations of the obligation to facilitate the entry of UNMISS personnel into South Sudan continue to occur. Of particular concern is the continuing delay in granting entry visas to nine UNMISS military staff officers, who have been waiting for between one and six months. The delay continues to hamper the full force deployment as mandated. Aside from these incidents, there were four recorded cases

of UNMISS personnel and contractors being threatened, harassed or assaulted and one recorded case of United Nations property being seized. An UNMISS vehicle that was impounded in Juba on 25 January by the National Police Service has not been returned, despite repeated requests.

66. Nine incidents involving interference with UNMISS activities by the pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition were recorded in Upper Nile, Unity and Central Equatoria. UNMISS continues to notify the Government about violations through a monthly record of incidents and in-person meetings with officials.

67. UNMISS continued efforts to strengthen the safety and security of United Nations personnel, premises and assets by implementing its Mission-level action plan based on the recommendations on reducing peacekeeper fatalities contained in the report by Lieutenant General (retired) Carlos Alberto dos Santos Cruz entitled "Improving security of United Nations peacekeepers". UNMISS continues to strengthen security risk management measures, including enhancing the physical protection of United Nations premises, the use of alert and staff tracking systems and closer cooperation, information-sharing and liaison with government security agencies.

68. To build public understanding of the Mission's mandate and the role of peacekeepers in building peace and protecting civilians in South Sudan, UNMISS has enhanced the use of multimedia communications and outreach channels, including social media. Radio Miraya continues to deliver programming and messages of peace.

VIII. Observations and recommendations

69. With the sustained efforts of IGAD, considerable progress has been made to revitalize the South Sudan peace process and to reach a negotiated settlement of the conflict in the country. The signing of the Khartoum Declaration and agreements on outstanding issues on governance and security arrangements during the Sudan-facilitated phase of the high-level revitalization forum are indeed important steps forward. I urge the parties to continue to engage with the mediators to resolve the remaining critical issues and conclude a revitalized agreement. At the same time, they must begin to implement the signed agreements to demonstrate good faith and build confidence. Silencing the guns and returning South Sudan to a path of peace and development remains the key priority for the people of South Sudan, who have suffered for far too long.

70. While I am encouraged by the constructive engagement of the Government in the revitalization forum, recent efforts to unilaterally extend its tenure by constitutional amendment will not help the peace process. In that respect, I urge the Government to maintain its focus on ongoing talks and to make the concessions necessary to conclude an inclusive and implementable political settlement. I equally encourage the parties in opposition and civil society groups to constructively engage in the process with the same spirit.

71. I remain deeply concerned about the continuing impact of the conflict on the people of South Sudan. The situation in the greater Upper Nile region, and southern Unity in particular, and the deterioration of the situation in the greater Bahr el-Ghazal and greater Equatoria regions, in spite of the recommitments to a ceasefire, are indicative of the devastation that the conflict continues to inflict on the civilian population. Forced displacement, direct and targeted attacks on civilians, including women and children, and the resulting insecurity remain the grim reality in South Sudan. In that regard, I welcome the joint report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNMISS that was published on 10 July

and call on the Government to undertake a thorough investigation into all allegations of serious human rights violations and abuses, as well as the violations of humanitarian law committed in southern Unity, and to hold accountable anyone found to bear responsibility for the crimes committed.

72. The imperative for peace is starkly reflected in the humanitarian situation. Viewed against the potential resources of the country to provide for the needs of its citizens, it is unacceptable that some 1.8 million persons are internally displaced, while another 2.5 million South Sudanese are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, making this the third largest refugee crisis in the world. Moreover, about 60 per cent of the population is suffering acute food insecurity and South Sudan now has one of the highest rates of out-of-school children in the world because of the conflict. The future generation of South Sudan deserves better.

73. During the reporting period, the operating environment remained one of the most dangerous in the world. I pay tribute to the colleagues that were lost during this period. In separate incidents in June and July, one peacekeeper and five humanitarian workers were killed. I condemn these attacks and call upon the parties to desist from targeting peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel and to remove all obstacles that disrupt the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the implementation of the UNMISS mandate. Individuals that target United Nations operations must be held accountable for their actions.

74. Despite the encouraging progress made in the Khartoum phase of the high-level revitalization forum, much work remains to be done to finalize the details of the agreements reached, including a viable implementation matrix. In many ways, the peace process, South Sudan and the collective efforts of the international community are at a crossroads. Further progress now depends on the consolidation of an inclusive agreement that resolves the outstanding difficult governance issues and ambiguous security-related issues, addressing, in particular, the security gap during and after the pre-transition and the wider reform of the security sector. I urge the parties to continue to show demonstrable commitment to overcome the challenges ahead and I reiterate that support and a display of unity of purpose from the Security Council, the African Union and IGAD to the peace process, coupled with incentives and disincentives to the parties, are critical to concluding a sustainable and implementable agreement.

75. As South Sudan makes progress towards a settlement of the conflict, it is critical to bear in mind that for peace to be sustainable, the structure, functions and leadership of the security sector will need to answer and become accountable to an elected civilian authority and obey the rule of law. I urge the South Sudanese leaders to work sincerely towards this goal and call upon the international community to support their efforts in this regard.

76. In conclusion, I thank the Deputy Secretary-General for leading a joint United Nations-African Union delegation to South Sudan in July to highlight the role of women in all efforts relating to conflict resolution, peacebuilding, development and humanitarian interventions and the issues of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence. I also convey my sincere appreciation to UNMISS military, police and civilian personnel. Under the leadership of my Special Representative, David Shearer, they work courageously to protect civilians in vulnerable situations, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, safeguard human rights and support the peace process. I particularly thank the troop- and police-contributing countries that have provided much-needed uniformed personnel and assets to the Mission. I further commend the United Nations country team and non-governmental organization partners for their tremendous courage and sacrifice in providing vital humanitarian assistance to the population, in arduous and often dangerous conditions. I also thank my Special Envoy, Nicholas Haysom, for his support to the peace process

at the regional level. Lastly, I commend the tireless efforts of the IGAD Special Envoy, Ismail Wais, as well as those of the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, the former President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, and the African Union High Representative for South Sudan, the former President of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konaré, for their commitment to addressing the plight of the civilian population of South Sudan in partnership with the United Nations. I also wish to express my sincere appreciation for the active engagement of the Chair of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, in the collective effort for peace in South Sudan.

Map No. 4456 Rev. 33 UNITED NATIONS
September 2018 (Colour)

Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)

United Nations S/2018/832

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 September 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 7 September 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), which was established by the Security Council in its resolution 2102 (2013). Its mandate was most recently extended in resolution 2408 (2018).

Following the usual consultations, I should like to inform you of my intention to appoint Nicholas Haysom (South Africa) as my Special Representative for Somalia and Head of UNSOM. He will succeed Michael Keating (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), who will complete his assignment on 30 September 2018. I should also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr. Keating for his dedication and effective leadership of UNSOM.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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United Nations S/2018/803

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 September 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 11 September 2018 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 7 September 2018 (S/2018/832) concerning your intention to appoint Nicholas Haysom (South Africa) as your Special Representative for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Nikki R. **Haley**
President of the Security Council

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